

Description

[TEMPERATURE COMPENSATION IN MAXIMUM FREQUENCY MEASUREMENT AND SPEED SORT]

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to a method for providing temperature compensation for measurement of a temperature sensitive parameter of semiconductor IC (integrated circuit) chips, and more particularly pertains to providing temperature compensation for a maximum frequency measurement (Fmax) and speed sort/categorization of semiconductor IC chips such as microprocessors.

[0002] During testing of a high-power 130 nm microprocessor product, the operational speeds of the microprocessor chip modules are measured, and the individual product chip modules are sorted and classified into several different sorts/categories, typically three sorts reflecting fast, medium and slow operating speed chips.

[0003] The microprocessor chip modules are water-cooled during the test measurements using a handler, which supports and cools the individual products during testing. At points during the test, the chip temperature (T_{dtest}) is frequently higher than the setpoint temperature of the handler. For some measurements and on a significant population of hardware tested, the chip temperature is higher than the customer's planned maximum operating temperature (T_{max}). During pre-production tests, chips are at temperatures as high as 100C (35C above T_{max}), and during production/manufacturing speed-sort tests, chips are often at temperatures as high as 80C (15C above T_{max}). This temperature rise reduces the maximum operating speed (F_{max} in gigahertz) of the part during test by as much as 3% for 15C above T_{max} . As a consequence, parts are measured and categorized/binned as slower than they would actually perform in the customer application environment at temperatures at or below T_{max} .

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0004] The present invention provides a method of temperature compensation for measurement of a temperature sensitive parameter of semiconductor IC chips, particularly temperature compensation for a maximum frequency measure-

ment (Fmax) and speed sort/categorization of semiconductor IC chips such as microprocessors.

[0005] The method involves determining the relationship of a temperature sensitive parameter of the chip to temperature prior to manufacturing/production test. Then during manufacturing/production test, measuring the temperature sensitive parameter of the chip; measuring the chip temperature directly during or following the measurement of the temperature sensitive parameter; determining an adjusted temperature sensitive parameter of the chip based upon the measured temperature sensitive parameter of the chip during testing, the measured chip temperature, and the determined change of the temperature sensitive parameter of the chip with temperature; and sorting the chip into specific speed categories based upon the adjusted temperature sensitive parameter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0006] The foregoing objects and advantages of the present invention for temperature compensation in maximum frequency measurement and speed sort may be more readily understood by one skilled in the art with reference being had to the following detailed description of several embodiments thereof, taken in conjunction with the accom-

panying drawings wherein Figure 1 is a process flow diagram of a process pursuant to the present invention for providing temperature compensation for a temperature sensitive parameter of an IC chip with a change of temperature.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0007] The present invention uses an on-chip diode to measure temperature directly during or after the measurement of the maximum operating speed (Fmax in gigahertz) during pre-production stages or during production test on the chip. Generally, the temperature measurements are always taken during the Fmax or power readings, and in reality they are taken after, in milliseconds. However, tests have indicated that measurements taken during and substantially immediately after are effectively the same. Accordingly, the description herein is of temperature measurements taken during or after the measurement of the maximum operating speed Fmax or power readings.

[0008] The on-chip temperature measurement is taken by the on-chip diode in the disclosed embodiment because the on-chip diode is already present on the chip. In alternative embodiments, the on-chip temperature measurement could be taken by any suitable temperature responsive or

sensitive component such as a temperature sensitive resistor or other temperature sensitive component.

[0009] Pursuant to the present invention, all parts registering a diode measured temperature during the test (T_{dtest}) that is higher or lower than the customer's planned maximum temperature (T_{max}) have the F_{max} measured at T_{dtest} adjusted upwardly or downwardly to arrive at a more realistic F_{max} at T_{max} based upon the results of product temperature and speed characterization data. The adjusted F_{max} more realistically reflects a part's true F_{max} at T_{max} . This adjusted F_{max} has been compared and correlated to F_{max} measured on a system bring-up platform and in the customer application environment with positive, accurate results. The manufacturing test program has been optimized to adjust F_{max} while minimizing test time impact and maximizing appropriate sorting for fast parts.

[0010] The product chip has an on-chip diode that is used to measure temperature by forcing a current through the diode and measuring a voltage at the start of the F_{max} test, when T_{dtest} is known, and again after the F_{max} test when T_{dtest} is unknown. The change in diode voltage per change in temperature has been extensively measured and is predictable so as to characterized, so that a tem-

perature change can be calculated from the diode voltages. The change in Fmax per change in Tdtest has also been extensively measured and is predictable so as to be characterized also. If the temperature rise shows that Tdtest is above or below Tmax, a predicted Fmax at Tmax is calculated, based upon which the part is sorted into speed categories.

- [0011] The present invention uses a diode on chip to measure temperature using the following steps:
- [0012] force a 100uA current and measure voltage;
- [0013] initially determine the characteristic diode voltage change per degree (slope);
- [0014] calibrate diode, force a current and measure voltage at a known temperature (V_{diode0} , T_0);
- [0015] force a current and measure voltage at an unknown temperature (V_{diode1} , T_1); and
- [0016] calculate $T_1 = (V_{diode1} - V_{diode0}) * \text{slope} + T_0$.
- [0017] The temperature of a part such as the high-power 130 nm microprocessor is controlled by a liquid cooled handler during test. Historically on previous products, the junction temperature of the die is up to 5C above the temperature of the handler. On this microprocessor product, the junc-

tion temperature of the die is 15C or more above the temperature of the handler.

[0018] The temperature rise is significant during the Fmax measurement. The amount of temperature rise varies per part and is not highly predictable. On this microprocessor, the frequency decreases, with a 1.7% frequency degrade per 10C rise. Fmax as measured is lower than the part's "true" Fmax because of the elevated temperature during test.

The present invention calculates Fmax while accounting for temperature rise during test $F_{adjusted} = F_{meas} + df/dt(T_{max} - T_{meas})$.

[0019] Measuring Fmax and Tmax and determining a predicted Fmax for all products with $T_{dtest} >$ or $<$ Tmax in this manner was performed on a number of parts, and the predicted Fmax were highly correlated and accurate with respect to Fmax measured exactly at Tmax, on both a bring-up platform and in the end customer application.

[0020] The method of the present invention has applications in addition to the determination of Fmax from measurements made during test, and could be used to determine other temperature sensitive parameters that are predictable with temperature, such as I (input)/O (output) timings and maximum and minimum voltage tests, which

measure the highest and lowest possible voltages at which a product will operate, and any other suitable temperature sensitive parameter that is predictable with temperature.

- [0021] The method of the present invention has applications in both pre-production stages and in production tests.
- [0022] In pre-production stages, when speed tests are extensive and cause large temperature rises, this method allows for a realistic indication of speed at Tmax for performance modeling purposes which predict the speed of parts, and the percentages of good/operative parts sorted into speed categories.
- [0023] Also in pre-production tests, the method of the present invention provides for system correlation where the adjusted Fmax at test is compared to a system/bring-up platform.
- [0024] In production tests, the method of the present invention allows for an enriched performance sort yield, or a larger percentage of hardware falling into the fastest speed sorts/categories. On a sampling in the high-power 130 nm microprocessor product, performance sort yield has been enriched by from 32% to 45% using a manufacturing test that accommodates temperature compensation in Fmax measurement and speed sorting, and is optimized

for minimal test time impact.

- [0025] The method of the present invention allows the use of handler equipment that does not tightly control the temperature of the parts, for example the use of relatively inexpensive air controlled/cooled handler equipment, as opposed to more expensive liquid controlled/cooled handler equipment.
- [0026] Figure 1 is a process flow diagram of a process pursuant to the present invention for providing temperature compensation for a temperature sensitive parameter of an IC chip with a change of temperature. The method comprises, prior to manufacturing, at 12 determining a change of a temperature sensitive parameter of the chip (that is predictable with temperature) with change of temperature. Then, during manufacturing, at 14 measuring the temperature sensitive parameter of the chip during testing, at 16 measuring the chip temperature directly during or following the measurement of the temperature sensitive parameter, at 18 determining an adjusted temperature sensitive parameter of the chip based upon the measured temperature sensitive parameter of the chip during testing, the measured chip temperature, and the determined change of the temperature sensitive parameter.

ter of the chip with temperature, and at 20 sorting and classifying individual product chip modules into several different sorts/categories, typically three sorts reflecting fast, medium and slow operating speed chips.

[0027] While several embodiments and variations of the present invention for a temperature compensation in maximum frequency measurement and speed sort are described in detail herein, it should be apparent that the disclosure and teachings of the present invention will suggest many alternative designs to those skilled in the art.